

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A toner cartridge comprising:

a toner receptacle having an interior and configured to accommodate toner, the toner receptacle having ~~[[an]]~~ a first opening; and

a receptacle holding member engaged with the toner receptacle such that the receptacle holding member covers or closes the first opening and holds the toner receptacle rotatably, and as the toner receptacle rotates, toner in the toner receptacle passes to the receptacle holding member via the first opening, wherein

the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section ~~on which~~ having an insertion passage ~~is formed to insert~~ configured to receive a pipe member which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holding member configured to be fixed to ~~[[an]]~~ the image forming apparatus, ~~and is formed such that~~ the insertion passage ~~extends~~ extending along a direction parallel to a direction of an axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, wherein the pipe insertion section is configured to connect the interior of the toner receptacle and the toner replenishing unit using the pipe member.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according claim 1, wherein the receptacle holding member has ~~a first~~ an engaging section having a plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings configured to engage with a plurality of positioning-pins ~~protrusion~~ of the image forming apparatus that ~~stick~~ sticks out along ~~[[a]]~~ the direction parallel to the direction of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, wherein the plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings are disposed at ~~in a positioning member that is fixed to the image forming apparatus, in a position~~ positions shifted from a center of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle holding member has ~~a second~~ an engaging section having a protruding section configured to engage with a recessed section of the image forming apparatus that is dented along ~~[[a]]~~ the direction parallel to the direction of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, wherein the protruding section is arranged at ~~in a positioning member fixed to the image forming apparatus,~~ in a position shifted from a center of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the receptacle holding member includes a toner storage section in which the toner is stored before being discharged out of the receptacle holding member, and the insertion passage extends along ~~[[a]]~~ the direction parallel to the direction of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, and is connected to the toner storage section.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the toner receptacle has a shape of a long and slender cylinder along the direction of the axis of rotation.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 4, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

a connecting passage that connects the insertion passage and the toner storage section of the receptacle holding member,

wherein the insertion passage, the connecting passage, and the toner storage section are positioned in a line in this order in a direction orthogonal to the direction of the axis of rotation.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 6, wherein the connecting passage is provided such that it extends straightly in the direction orthogonal to the direction of the axis of rotation.

Claim 8 (Original) The toner cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the connecting passage has a taper that tapers from the toner storage section to the insertion passage.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 6, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

a shutter member that closes ~~[[an]]~~ a second opening on the side of the insertion passage ~~in of the connecting passage, the shutter member being slidable is provided such that it can slide~~ between a first position that closes the second opening ~~in the insertion passage~~ and a second position ~~where it that~~ exposes the second opening.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 9, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

a sealing member that seals a gap between the pipe insertion section and the shutter member in the insertion passage, is the sealing member being fixed to an inner wall of the insertion passage of the pipe insertion section.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the sealing member is provided at a first location in the insertion passage upstream ~~than a location connecting with the connecting passage of the second opening~~ in a direction of insertion of the pipe member, and at a second location in the insertion passage downstream ~~than the location connecting with the connection passage of the second opening~~ in the direction of insertion of the pipe member.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 11, wherein the shutter member has a diameter ~~same as that~~ which is equal to a diameter of the pipe member.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

the toner which is accommodated in the toner receptacle.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 13, wherein the toner is a refilled toner that is refilled into the toner receptacle after the toner receptacle becomes empty upon using the toner in ~~an~~ the image forming apparatus.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 13[[,]] wherein the receptacle holding member comprises:

a projection having a shape which indicates a color of the toner in the toner receptacle
~~among a plurality of toner cartridges accommodating toners of different colors in the toner receptacles set in the same image forming apparatus, a shape of a projection image of each of~~

~~the toner receptacles in the direction of axis of rotation of the receptacle holding member is different.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 1, wherein a connecting passage connects the insertion passage and a toner storage section in the receptacle holding member, wherein the toner is sent from the toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member through the first opening, then the toner ~~and after toner sent from the toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member~~ drops to the connecting passage, the ~~toner~~ flows into the pipe member through the connecting passage to be discharged out of the receptacle holding member, and an airtightness between the insertion passage on a downstream side in a direction of transportation of toner from the connecting passage and the pipe member inserted into the insertion passage is superior than an airtightness between the toner receptacle on an upstream side in the direction of transportation of toner from the connecting passage and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

a porous sealing member made of a porous material ~~is~~ provided between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member; and

a non-porous sealing member made of a non-porous material ~~is~~ provided between the insertion passage and the pipe member, ~~and therefore,~~

wherein an airtightness between the insertion passage and the pipe member is superior than an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 16, wherein the receptacle holding member includes:

an engaging section configured to engage with the toner receptacle and ~~an~~ the pipe insertion section ~~in which the insertion passage is formed, the insertion section being, which~~ is configured to fit to the engaging section, and an airtightness between the engaging section and the pipe insertion section is superior than an airtightness between ~~the engaging section~~ and the toner receptacle the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The toner cartridge according to claim 18, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

a porous sealing member made of a porous material ~~is~~ provided between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member; and

a non-porous sealing member made of a non-porous material ~~is~~ provided between the engaging section and the pipe insertion section, and therefore, an airtightness between the engaging section and the pipe insertion section is superior than an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holding member.

Claim 20 (Original) The toner cartridge according to claim 17, wherein the porous sealing member is made of an elastic material, and the toner receptacle engaged with the receptacle holding member jams in the porous sealing member.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a toner image forming unit that forms a toner image on a recording ~~body~~ medium;

a toner replenishing unit including a pipe member;

a toner cartridge that accommodates toner to be supplied to the toner image forming unit and is detachable from the image forming apparatus; and

a suction unit that sucks the toner in the toner cartridge and carries the toner to the toner image forming unit, wherein

the toner cartridge includes

a toner receptacle configured to accommodate toner, the toner receptacle having an opening, and

a receptacle holding member engaged with the toner receptacle such that the receptacle holding member covers or closes the opening and holds the toner receptacle rotatably, and as the toner receptacle rotates, toner in the toner receptacle passes to the receptacle holding member via the opening, wherein

the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section ~~on which~~ having an insertion passage is formed to insert a configured to receive the pipe member, the receptacle holding member configured to be fixed to ~~an~~ the image forming apparatus, and is formed such that the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to a direction of axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, wherein

the suction unit sucks the toner in the receptacle holding member through the pipe member inserted into the insertion ~~member~~ passage, wherein the pipe insertion section is connected with the pipe member and functions to connect a space of the toner receptacle in which the toner is stored and the toner replenishing unit.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 21, wherein, ~~in the toner cartridge,~~

the receptacle holding member has ~~a first~~ an engaging section having a plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings configured to engage with a plurality of positioning-pins

~~protrusion~~ of the image forming apparatus that ~~stick~~ ~~sticks~~ out along ~~[[a]]~~ the direction parallel to the direction of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, wherein the plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings are disposed at in a positioning member that is fixed to the image-forming apparatus, in a position positions shifted from a center of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle,

the receptacle holding member includes a toner storage section in which the toner is stored before being discharged out of the receptacle holding member, and

the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to the direction of the axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, and is connected to the toner storage section,

and while mounting the toner cartridge on to the image forming apparatus, the ~~first~~ engaging section ~~or the second engaging section~~ of the receptacle holding member is engaged with the plurality of positioning-pins ~~a protrusion or a recessed section of the positioning member~~ before the pipe member is inserted into the insertion passage.

Claim 23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) A method of recycling a toner cartridge including a toner receptacle that accommodates toner and a receptacle holding member engaged with the toner receptacle such that the receptacle holding member covers an opening ~~formed in at a~~ front end of the toner receptacle and holds the toner receptacle so that the toner receptacle can rotate, wherein the toner is sent from the toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member through the opening by rotation of the toner receptacle, ~~in which~~ after the toner in the toner receptacle is sent to the receptacle holding member from the opening ~~by rotation of the toner~~

~~receptacle~~, the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holding member and then the toner is refilled in the toner receptacle, wherein

the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section ~~on which~~ having an insertion passage is formed to insert configured to receive a pipe member which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus configured to be fixed to ~~[[an]]~~ the image forming apparatus, and is formed such that the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to a direction of axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, wherein the pipe insertion section is connected with the pipe member and functions to connect a space of the toner receptacle in which the toner is stored and the toner replenishing unit, the method comprising:

removing the toner receptacle from the receptacle holding member using a special purpose tool to expose the opening of the toner receptacle;

refilling ~~the toner in~~ the toner receptacle with toner through the opening of the toner receptacle after removing the toner receptacle; and

setting the toner receptacle on the receptacle holding member upon refilling.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A method of recycling a toner cartridge including a toner receptacle that accommodates toner and a receptacle holding member engaged with the toner receptacle such that the receptacle holding member covers an opening ~~formed in~~ at a front end of the toner receptacle and holds the toner receptacle so that the toner receptacle can rotate, wherein the toner is sent from the toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member through the opening by rotation of the toner receptacle, ~~in which~~ after the toner in the toner receptacle is sent to the receptacle holding member from the opening ~~by rotation of the toner receptacle~~, the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holding member and then the toner is refilled in the toner receptacle, wherein

the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section ~~on which~~ having an insertion passage ~~is formed to insert~~ configured to receive a pipe member which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus configured to be fixed to ~~an~~ the image forming apparatus, and is formed such that the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to a direction of axis of rotation of the toner receptacle, wherein the pipe insertion section is connected with the pipe member and functions to connect a space of the toner receptacle in which the toner is stored and the toner replenishing unit, the method comprising:

creating ~~cutting~~ a hole in the toner receptacle for refilling the toner,
refilling the toner in the toner receptacle through the hole; ~~and~~
closing the hole.

Claim 27 (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises boring the hole.

Claim 28 (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating a hole on the bottom surface of the rear end of the toner receptacle.

Claim 29 (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating a hole on the bottom surface of the rear end of the toner receptacle.

Claim 30 (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating the hole on the peripheral surface of the toner receptacle.

Claim 31 (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating the hole on the peripheral surface of the toner receptacle.

Claim 32 (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by welding a resin material around the periphery of the hole.

Claim 33 (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by welding a resin material around periphery of the hole.

Claim 34 (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by placing a sealing film over the hole.

Claim 35 (New) A method according to claim 27, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by placing a sealing film over the hole.

Claim 36 (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising:
peeling the sealing film from the hole.

Claim 37 (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
peeling the sealing film from the hole.